

# Backs keep flag defence on track

GORDON ARMSTRONG

GLENELG could do worse than line up each of its defenders and say thanks for a job well done following the Tigers' victory against Central District at Elizabeth yesterday.

Time after time, particularly in the first half when the heat was on, Bays backmen cut off promising Bulldogs entries into their forward line to rebound constantly, eventually their work rewarded when Glenelg broke the game open in the third quarter to set up a 33-point win.

The Bays' class stood out after the long break but the Dogs kept coming, causing a ripple of excitement when they slashed a last-quarter deficit of 49 points to five goals midway through the last before Glenelg steadied. Tigers coach Mark Stone was pleased with the result and effort to record their biggest winning margin this year.

"I thought there were a lot of

	Standings							
	P	W	L	D	F	A	%	Pts
Eagles	7	6	1	0	589	366	61.68	12
North Adelaide	7	6	1	0	507	431	54.05	12
South Adelaide	7	4	3	0	551	441	53.97	8
Norwood	7	4	3	0	561	557	51.59	8
Glenelg	7	4	3	0	561	541	50.91	8
Sturt	7	2	5	0	395	498	44.23	4
West Adelaide	7	1	5	1	427	583	42.28	3
Central District	7	0	6	1	424	594	41.65	1

good signs," Stone said. "Central is a very, very proud club and mighty hard to beat out here and our record at this ground has not been great for many years. And we have seven or so players who are 18, 19, 20 and only played a handful of games so that will take time.

"We are a work in progress and we have our flat spots but we are getting there."

Better players for the Bays included Matt Snook (29 disposals), skipper Max Proud (seven marks), Luke Partington (31 disposals, seven inside 50s), Liam McBean (four goals

and Brad Agnew (27 touches, eight clearances).

Central battled it out but coach Jeff Andrews said he would love to see the fighting spirit translated into victories.

"The boys are trying so hard but our unforced errors, especially early, keep hurting us," Andrews said. "It was gallant again and I am very proud of the effort but we have been saying that for a few weeks now."

Experienced Travis Schiller (38 disposals, nine clearances), Troy Menzel (31 disposals, 13 marks), Jarrod Schiller and James Boyd stood tall for the Dogs.

	<b>GLENELG</b>	3.4	5.6	10.10	15.14	<b>104</b>
	<b>CENTRAL</b>	1.1	4.3	5.5	11.5	<b>71</b>

**BEST**

**Glenelg:** Snook, Agnew, Partington, Proud, McBean, Nicholson, Hannath.

**Central:** T. Schiller, Menzel, J. Schiller, Boyd, Hoskin, Toner.

**GOALS**

**Glenelg:** McBean 4, Bailey, 3, Partington, Allen 2, Snook, Yates, Nicholson, Kluske.

**Central:** Stephenson, Hoskin 2, Boyd, Olsson, Lange, Durdin, Gillard, Habel, Butcher.

**INJURIES**

**Central:** Lange (ankle).

**UMPIRES**

S. Morgan, A. Crosby, D. Sobieraj.

**CROWD**

991 at Elizabeth Oval.

By ZAC MILBANK

## Glenelg snuck into the top four with a much-needed 33-point win against Central District at X Convenience Oval.

Banking the premiership points for the second week in succession, the Bays' experience and willingness to apply defensive pressure proved too much for the Bulldogs to overcome.

Unearthing another AAMI Rookie in Luke Edwards – son of Crows premiership defender Tyson – the visitors broke the game open in the third term with five goals to Central's one.

Glenelg used the ball more regularly by foot – 231 kicks to 192 – as it controlled the tempo when required by switching the play and possessing the footy with 118 marks to 68.

But it was Mark Stone's group who piled on the pressure with 66 tackles to the Dogs' 50, forcing them into too many handballs, which ended up being one of the few stat categories the hosts would win by 142 to 121.

The Tiger forwards had plenty of space to work with when the ball was switched and moved with purpose, Liam McBean booting four goals from eight shots while also working hard further up the ground to notch 19 disposals, seven marks and four tackles.

Leading by just nine points at the main change, the Tigers booted three of the first goals in the third quarter to open up a 22-point buffer when Magarey Medallist Luke Partington finished

off his contested mark in a one-on-one contest.

Improving Tiger Jack Yates didn't have to break stride when ruckman Jack Hannath fed him a handball before finishing on the run from 25m.

The margin soon opened up to a match-defining 36 points when premiership wingman Carl Nicholson redeemed a missed set shot by intercepting and snapping truly from 20m.

McBean's third major stretched the advantage out by as much as 49 points six minutes into the final term but the Dogs regained some respect on the scoreboard to put Glenelg on notice with five of the next six goals.

But another pair to McBean during time-on of the fourth term ensured the reigning premier would secure its fourth win of the season and regain its place in the top four for 24 hours before South hosts Norwood on Sunday.

Partington was influential with his 31 disposals, five clearances and two goals while Jack Oatey Medallist Matt Snook was again in the thick of the action for 29 disposals, six tackles and 10 clearances.

Veteran Brad Agnew was tough in the clinches as usual for 27 disposals and eight clearances while Carl Nicholson had 22 disposals and his clever snap on goal.

Ruckman Jack Hannath – playing against his old side for the first time at Elizabeth – had his best game for his new club,

racking up 20 disposals, five marks and 29 hit outs, many of which were directed straight to his teammates.

Defensively, captain Max Proud and first-year player Luke Parks took 17 marks between them several of them being intercepts as the Bulldogs charged forward.

Luke Edwards – eligible to be selected as a father-son for the Crows – was composed on debut for the Bays with 10 disposals, before leaving the game with a couple of minutes to play after copping a knock to his head after effecting a smother.

Central – reduced to 21 men after Nick Lange didn't emerge after half-time due to injury – never lost its spirit to hang in the game, as evidenced by outscoring Glenelg in the final term.

Travis Schiller is back to his best after his off-season foot surgery, racking up a game-high 38 disposals, nine clearances and five tackles while James Boyd and Troy Menzel also surpassed 30 disposals.

Menzel's willingness to work back into defence has been noticeable this season as the former Crow also took 13 marks.

Late VFL recruit Jack Toner, who collected 21 disposals for the Dogs, tried hard to construct play from the back half while Murray Stephenson snared an eye-catching one-handed mark as his side made a desperate charge late in the game.

WWW.SANFL.COM.AU